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DE WTE #0203 0141730
Q 141729Z JAN 74 ZYH
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 44

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

UNCLAS WH40123 TOHAK 44

FM: LES JANKA

IN REFERENCE TO TOHAK 41, AP WIRE SERVICE IS CARRYING FOLLOWING REPORT:

QUOTE: KISSINGER, NOW SECRETARY OF STATE, REACTED STRONGLY TO THE TELEPHONE-TAPPING REPORT SUNDAY. "I THINK IT IS A MALICIOUS, VICIOUS, OUTRAGEOUS LIE," HE TOLD REPORTERS WHILE FLYING FROM JERUSALEM TO ASWAN, EGYPT, ON A MIDDLE EAST PEACE MISSION. THE SPATE OF NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS FOLLOWED CONTENTIONS BY SOME WHITE HOUSE AND SENATE SOURCES LAST WEEK THAT A HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY PLOT EXISTED AGAINST KISSINGER. THE SUN-TIMES QUOTED TOP CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AT THE PENTAGON AS SAYING THE EVIDENCE GATHERED BY THE PLUMBERS REGARDING THE MILITARY SPYING WAS INCONCLUSIVE, AND IT SAID ONE OFFICIAL FOUND NOTHING IN IT TO IMPLICATE MOORER OR ANY OTHER TOP MILITARY LEADER.

ONE SOURCE TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THAT MOORER SPOKE BY TELEPHONE LAST WEEK WITH KISSINGER AND "GOT A HELL OF A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE" FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

MOORER, A MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON SPECIAL ACTION GROUP AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL DECISION-MAKING BODIES OPERATING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NSC, HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED HE WAS GETTING ALL THE INFORMATION HE NEEDED THROUGH LEGITIMATE CHANNELS, THE SOURCE SAID. "HE NEVER FELT CUT OUT OF THE PATTERN."

SOME TOP CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AT THE PENTAGON HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY, HOWEVER, THAT NIXON AND KISSINGER KEPT A CLOSE HOLD ON DEVELOPMENTS GROWING OUT OF THEIR EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL DIPLOMACY, OTHER SOURCES SAID.

ADMIRAL THOMAS H. MOORER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, HAS EMERGED AS A CENTRAL FIGURE IN REPORTS OF MILITARY SPYING AGAINST HENRY A. KISSINGER IN 1971.

BUT PENTAGON ASSOCIATES OF THE NATION'S TOP UNIFORMED OFFICER SAY HE HAS NOT LOST THE CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT NIXON, AND, IN FACT, RECEIVED NOTICE WELL IN ADVANCE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE THAT HE WAS BEING NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TWO-YEAR TERM AS JCS CHAIRMAN IN 1972.

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

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THE PENTAGON OFFICIALS WERE COMMENTING IN RESPONSE TO A REPORT BY THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE THAT NIXON WANTED TO FIRE MOORER AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT KNOWN AS THE PLUMBERS TOLD THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPYING AGAINST KISSINGER, THEN A FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER AND HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC). THE TRIBUNE SAID IT HAD NOT LEARNED WHY NIXON DID NOT FIRE MOORER. MEANWHILE, THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED IN TODAY'S EDITIONS THAT DAVID YOUNG, A MEMBER OF THE PLUMBERS UNIT, SUBMITTED A LENGTHY REPORT IN EARLY 1972 THAT CONCLUDED THAT MOORER HAD RECEIVED SECRET NSC DOCUMENTS TAKEN FROM KISSINGER'S OFFICE. THE TIMES STORY, WHICH QUOTED WELL-PLACED SOURCES, SAID YOUNG'S REPORT OF HIS INVESTIGATION INTO SECURITY LEAKS SHOWED THAT CLASSIFIED MATERIALS ALSO WERE PROVIDED TO SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON. ON SUNDAY, THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES SAID THE PLUMBERS GROUP ACCUSED AN UNIDENTIFIED U.S. MILITARY MAN OF RIFLING KISSINGER'S BRIEFCASE DURING ONE OF HIS VISITS TO CHINA. IT SAID SATURDAY THAT KISSINGER ORDERED A TAP PLACED ON THE TELEPHONE OF THEN-DEFENSE SECRETARY MELVIN R. LAIRD IN 1971 IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND THE SOURCE OF LEAKS FROM TOP SECRET DIPLOMATIC DEALINGS.

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